This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

3 3433 08165066 9

CBA
Jessopp

BEFORE THE GREAT PILLAGE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

ARCADY: for Better, for Worse. By the Rev. Doctor JESSOPP. Fourth Edition. Crown 8vo, limp cloth, silk sewn, 3s. 6d.

THE COMING OF THE FRIARS, and other Mediæval Sketches. By the Rev. Doctor JESSOPP. Sixth Edition. Crown 8vo, limp cloth, silk sewn, 3s. 6d.

RANDOM ROAMING, and other Papers. With Portrait. By the Rev. Doctor JESSOPP. Second and Cheaper Edition. Crown 8vo, limp cloth, silk sewn, 3s. 6d.

STUDIES BY A RECLUSE: In Cloister, Town, and Country. By the Rev. Doctor JESSOPP. Second Edition. Crown 8vo, limp cloth, silk sewn, 3s. 6d.

THE TRIALS OF A COUNTRY PARSON: Some Fugitive Papers. By the Rev. Doctor JESSOPP. Third Edition. Crown 8vo, limp cloth, silk sewn, 3s. 6d.

FRIVOLA, AND SIMON RYAN THE PETERITE. By the Rev. Doctor JESSOPP. Crown 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.

T. FISHER UNWIN, 1, ADELPHI TERRACE, W.C.

Before the Great Pillage

With Other Miscellanies

BY

AUGUSTUS JESSOPP, D.D.,

RECTOR OF SCARNING

Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge
Honorary Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford
Honorary Canon in the Cathedral of Norwich

London
T. FISHER UNWIN
ADELPHI TERRACE
1910

THE NEW
PUBLIC LIBRARY
870949
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R 1920 L

First Edition . . *April*, 1901.
Second Impression . *October*, 1901.
Third " . *January*, 1910.

(*All rights reserved.*)

CONTENTS

I

PAGE

PARISH LIFE IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE GREAT PILLAGE (Part I.) 3

PARISH LIFE IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE GREAT PILLAGE (Part II.) 35

II

THE PARISH PRIEST IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE REFORMATION 75

III

"ROBBING GOD" 123

IV

THE CRY OF THE VILLAGES 147

V

PAGE

THE BAPTISM OF CLOVIS 183

VI

DAVID AND JONATHAN 221

VII

ADAM AND EVE 231

VIII

CU CU! 239

IX

MOLES 249

PREFACE

WHEN, some twenty years ago, the country living which I now hold was offered me by the kind friend to whom the patronage belonged, I accepted it with little hesitation, and I did so with my eyes open and not without counting the cost. I knew that in joining the ranks of the country clergy I was burning my ships and that there was no professional future before me.

I have never regretted my decision. I have found an abiding joy and pride in doing my best for my people and studying them and their ways in the present, while trying to learn something about their forefathers and *their* ways in the past.

In my first volume—entitled *Arcady, for better for worse*—I gave the world the result of my observations upon men and things as I found them. I believe it was and is a faithful picture; but there was nothing retrospective in it reaching further back than the first half of the eighteenth century.

It so happened, however, that certain antiquarian tastes, which were born with me, led me into researches here and there which appeared to me to throw some new light upon mediæval history.

The discovery of the immense body of direct evidence which the Manor Court Rolls afford regarding the incidence of the great plague of 1349; the study of the Rougham charters, which yielded such a minute insight into the life of a village community in the thirteenth century; and the extraordinary find of a prosperous country parson's annual audit for the year ending Michaelmas, 1306,[1] were instances of the fact that even in History there

[1] The first two of these papers are printed in my *Coming of the Friars*; the third in *Random Roamings*.

are still many *discoveries* to be made, and also that some men are curiously fortunate in their finds.

The essays in the present volume on *Parish Life*, as distinct from village life, and on the *Parish Priest*, as distinct from the country parson, are in great measure supplementary to or elucidatory of the earlier papers referred to. If it were at all probable that a re-arrangement of my writings should be undertaken, I should like to see these five or six papers on Mediæval Parish history published in a volume by themselves, so only that I were permitted to add two more contributions on the same lines of research, supplementary to these earlier ones.

To some readers the attempt to deal with the Baptism of Clovis may appear out of place in a volume so *English* as this is. Nevertheless, I am sure that there are others who will readily understand why this essay should be found in such company. For the student of English Origins when confronted by the thick darkness, say, of the fifth century, often finds himself mastered by a

kind of passionate impatience to break away from it and to get into the light again—anyhow—anywhere. "I can find nothing," he says to himself, "about what was passing here when the Roman legions deserted our island; let me follow if I can for a while, the movements of those fierce barbarian hosts, never at rest, a day's sail from our own coast line!"

And so the historic instinct leads him to widen his purview, and mental refreshment comes which brings with it clearer vision and a profounder appreciation of the unity of history.

As to the other trifles in the book, they must apologise for themselves.

PARISH LIFE IN ENGLAND BEFORE THE GREAT PILLAGE